Appl. No. 10/521,229
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

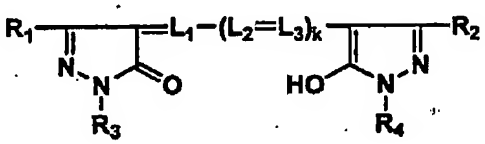
1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and

processing the photographic material,

wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by the following formula (1) and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722:

formula (1)



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each -CN, $-COR_5$, $COOR_6$ [[-COOR]] or $-CONR_7R_8$; R_3 and R_4 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; L_1, L_2 and L_3 are each a methine group and k is 2, provided that the respective $-L_2=L_3-$ may be the same or different; R_5 and R_6 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; R_7 and R_8 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or R_7 and R_8 may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that R_7 and R_8 are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and

processing the photographic material,

wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and is exposed by, scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in

JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

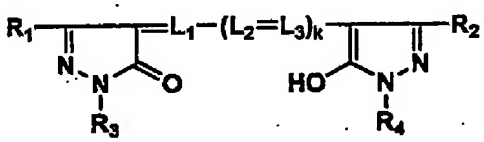
3. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and

processing the photographic material,

wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by formula (1) ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, the photographic material is exposed by scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722:

formula (1)



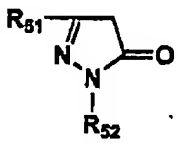
wherein R_1 and R_2 are each -CN, $-COR_5$, $COOR_6$ or $-CONR_7R_8$; R_3 and R_4 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an

aryl group or a heterocyclic group; L_1, L_2 and L_3 are each a methine group and k is 2, provided that the respective $-L_2=L_3-$ may be the same or different; R_5 and R_6 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; R_7 and R_8 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or R_7 and R_8 may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that R_7 and R_8 are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

4. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than 6.2 g/m^2.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

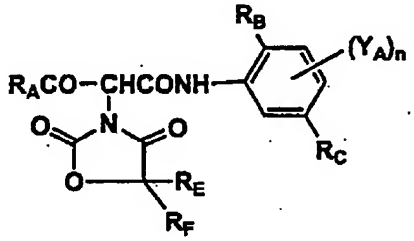
formula (2)



wherein R_{51} is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R_{52} is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

6. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (3):

formula (3)

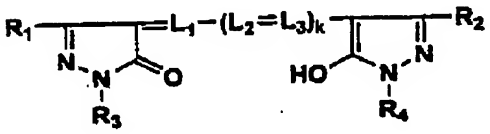


wherein R_A is an alkyl group; R_B is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group; R_C is $COOR_{D1}$, $-COOR_{D2}COOR_{D1}$, $-NHCOR_{D2}SO_2R_{D1}$, $-N(R_{D3})SO_2R_{D1}$ or $-SO_2N(R_{D3})R_{D1}$, in which R_{D1} is a univalent organic group, R_{D2} is an alkylene group and R_{D3} is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom; Y_A is a univalent organic group; n is 0 or 1; R_E and R_F are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

7. (Currently Amended) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by formula (1) ~~as claimed in~~

~~claim 1~~ and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722;

formula 1

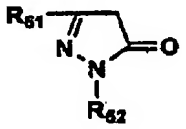


wherein R_1 and R_2 are each -CN, $-COR_5$, $COOR_6$ or $-CONR_7R_8$; R_3 and R_4 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; L_1, L_2 and L_3 are each a methine group and k is 2, provided that the respective $-L_2=L_3-$ may be the same or different; R_5 and R_6 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; R_7 and R_8 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or R_7 and R_8 may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that R_7

and R_8 are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

8. (Currently Amended) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support and contains a compound represented by formula (2) ~~as claimed in claim 5~~ and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722:

formula (2)

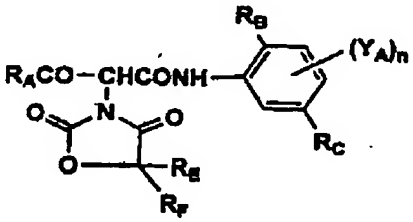


wherein R_{51} is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R_{52} is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

9. (Currently Amended) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material comprises a reflection support

and contains a compound represented by formula (3) ~~as claimed in claim 6~~ and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722:

formula (3)

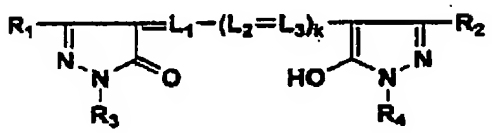


wherein R_A is an alkyl group; R_B is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group; R_C is $COOR_{D1}$, $-COOR_{D2}COOR_{D1}$, $-NHCOR_{D2}SO_2R_{D1}$, $-N(R_{D3})SO_2R_{D1}$ or $-SO_2N(R_{D3})R_{D1}$, in which R_{D1} is a univalent organic group, R_{D2} is an alkylene group and R_{D3} is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom; Y_A is a univalent organic group; n is 0 or 1; R_E and R_F are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

10. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than 6.2 g/m^2.

11. (Currently Amended) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (1):

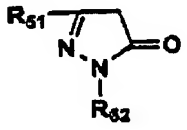
formula (1)



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each -CN, -COR_5, $COOR_6$ [[-COOR]] or -$CONR_7R_8$; R_3 and R_4 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; L_1, L_2 and L_3 are each a methine group and k is 2, provided that the respective -L_2=L_3- may be the same or different; R_5 and R_6 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; R_7 and R_8 are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or R_7 and R_8 may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that R_7 and R_8 are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

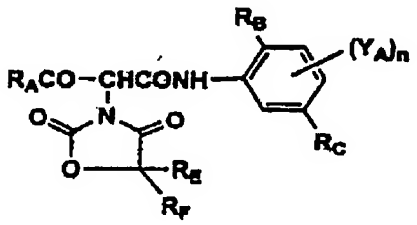
formula (2)



wherein R_{51} is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R_{52} is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (3):

formula (3)



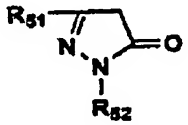
wherein R_A is an alkyl group; R_B is a halogen atom or an

alkoxy group; R_C is $COOR_{D1}$, $-COOR_{D2}COOR_{D1}$, $-NHCOR_{D2}SO_2R_{D1}$, $-N(R_{D3})SO_2R_{D1}$ or $-SO_2N(R_{D3})R_{D1}$, in which R_{D1} is a univalent organic group, R_{D2} is an alkylene group and R_{D3} is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom; Y_A is a univalent organic group; n is 0 or 1; R_E and R_F are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 3, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than 6.2 g/m^2.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 3, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

formula (2)

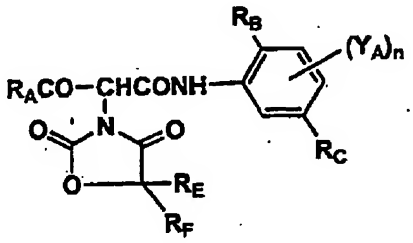


wherein R_{51} is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R_{52} is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

16. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 3, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented

by the following formula (3):

formula (3)



wherein R_A is an alkyl group; R_B is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group; R_C is $COOR_{D1}$, $-COOR_{D2}COOR_{D1}$, $-NHCOR_{D2}SO_2R_{D1}$, $-N(R_{D3})SO_2R_{D1}$ or $-SO_2N(R_{D3})R_{D1}$, in which R_{D1} is a univalent organic group, R_{D2} is an alkylene group and R_{D3} is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom; Y_A is a univalent organic group; n is 0 or 1; R_E and R_F are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.